

DIVINE MERCY PASTORATE

FEASIBILITY STUDY CASE STATEMENT



*Potential Design of St. John Paul II Church



“Divine Mercy Pastorate (DMP) is testing the feasibility of building a new church for the parish of St. John Paul II. The parish has been working toward this moment for many years, and now is the time for DMP to see what the Holy Spirit has in store, not only for St. John Paul II, but those living in Harrisburg, southern Sioux Falls, and beyond. The Diocese of Sioux Falls’ 2022 strategic plan, Set Ablaze, has invited the faithful to rethink how we view our parishes, people, and ministries. This case statement outlines a new vision for us as a People of God, on a mission to bring the Gospel to all people. I ask for your continued prayers throughout this process”

**FATHER
PAUL RUTTEN**

DIOCESAN SET ABLAZE GOALS

1. To build vibrant, welcoming parishes that are well-equipped to serve the people of God.
2. To inspire a renewed sense of purpose and belonging among Catholics across the diocese.
3. To support and sustain our priests and leaders so they can lead with energy and focus.



DIVINE MERCY PASTORATE VISION

**SHAPING A FUTURE WHERE PARISHES
AND PEOPLE THRIVE TOGETHER**

DMP's vision to 'Reignite the fire of faith across the pastorate' includes the following milestones:

- Resolve the future of the St. John Paul II location and church campus.
- Develop a long-term facilities and vibrant ministry plan for all three parishes.
- Foster radical hospitality to welcome all Catholics, current parishioners, and new members.
- Cultivate an enduring, shared identity across the pastorate.

*LOVING FATHER, We gather as a
community beneath the mantle of Your Divine Mercy, seeking
Your limitless love and forgiveness.*

THE NUMBERS 2024-2025

CHRIST THE KING | ST. JOHN PAUL II | CHURCH OF ST. MARY

2,350
Households

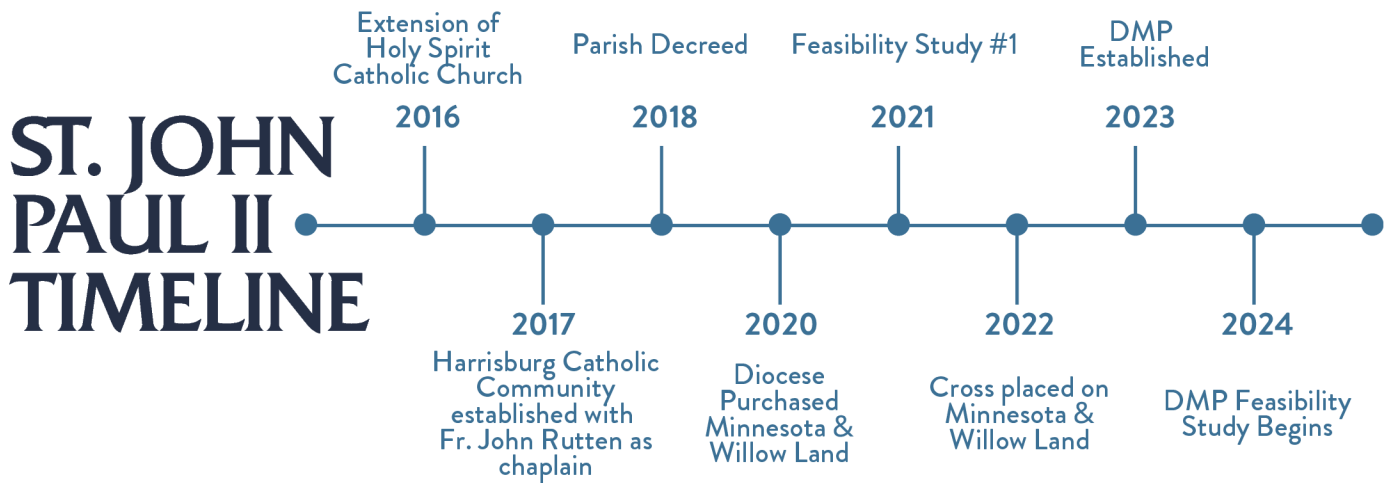
381
School
Enrollment

330
Religious Ed
Students

8
Weekend
Masses

5
Clergy



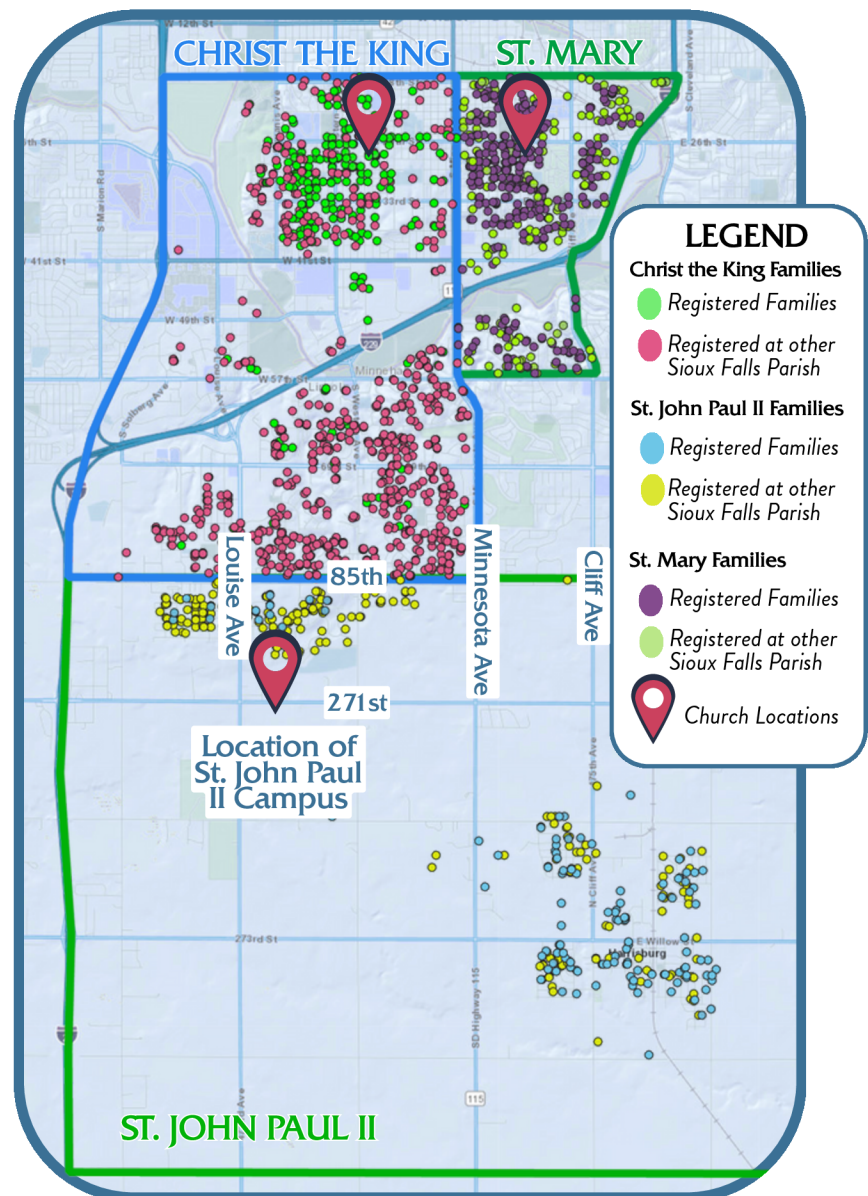


NEW LAND ACQUISITION

St. John Paul II has purchased 15 acres of land in northern Harrisburg/southern Sioux Falls, between Louise and Western. This location splits the difference between the two locations currently owned by the Diocese. Through a study of household locations, we were able to identify a new piece of land for the parish as the most appropriate location to meet the needs of our Pastorate families.

This project is more than a church—it is an opportunity for the entire Pastorate to:

- Deepen our collective faith
- Strengthen the Church by renewing connections with those who have fallen away and inviting others to join our Pastorate family.
- Invest in the spiritual growth of generations to come.



Data from 2024 - Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

THE FUTURE OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

DMP is laying the groundwork for a bold step forward in faith: the construction of a new parish church for St. John Paul II. Designed to be a flagship parish of the diocese, this church will serve as a spiritual anchor for current parishioners and a welcoming home for new families from the growing communities of southern Sioux Falls and Harrisburg.

A TRADITIONALLY INSPIRED CHURCH FOR GENERATIONS

This campus responds to a real pastoral constraint that Set Ablaze is actively trying to combat: the priest shortage. With a generously sized, well-located church, the number of weekend Masses can be reduced. A larger, thoughtfully designed space improves the Mass-to-priest ratio, creates more predictable sacramental schedules, and frees clergy for confession, ministry, and pastoral care. The church will be built to seat at least 1,000 in order to create more efficient Mass numbers each weekend per diocesan guidelines.

CULTIVATE VOCATIONS

The facility will actively foster all vocations. A dedicated chapel for daily prayer and adoration, ample confessionals, rooms for faith formation and discipleship, and welcoming hospitality areas. We need holy families of all sizes, devoted mothers and fathers, and children eager to know Jesus Christ, so that we can reverse the downward trends that we are experiencing in our diocese. By building with growth in mind, we make room for the next generation to hear and answer God's call, no matter the vocation they are called to.

POPULATION GROWTH

Sioux Falls continues to grow by approximately 2.5–3% each year, with strong expansion anticipated through 2040. Harrisburg's growth is even more dynamic, about 8–9% annually, with population projections rising from roughly 9,500 to 20,000 over the next two decades. Building where the growth is happening allows us to size the church responsibly from day one and steward resources wisely.



PASTORATE CAMPUS

ST. JOHN PAUL II CHURCH

A church building that stirs wonder and awe at the majesty of God. This church will be designed to serve DMP and the broader Catholic community.

It will include:

- Large narthex “gathering space.”
- Perpetual adoration chapel.
- Outdoor space for children, gathering, and reflection.
- State of the art sound and technology to improve the worship experience.
- Parking and accessibility.



*JESUS, OUR
SAVIOR, you
revealed to us the
depths of your Mercy
through your passion,
death, and
resurrection.*

FAITH FORMATION CENTER

The Faith Formation Center will be a welcoming, purpose-built hub for community life and spiritual growth. Designed to nurture lifelong faith formation and community life, it will support sacramental preparation, spiritual direction, and shared experiences across generations.

The Center will provide faith formation opportunities for each stage of life, creating and sustaining lifelong missionary disciples.

- Children and Youth: By uniting all three parishes and more than 330 students from elementary through high school in Faith Formation, the Center will create a unified campus that strengthens programming and staffing continuity, reduces operational costs, and provides a centralized space for Catholic life and learning. Multiple atria for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
- Young Adults: Develop a transition pathway for young adults and families (25–40 years old) transitioning into parish life, particularly those coming from the St. Patrick Newman Club.
- Lifelong: A Catholic learning environment designed to facilitate adult formation. Including spaces for choir practice, small group meetings, and special events.



PARISH HALL / EVENT SPACE

Often, a parish hall is built for typical parish uses, such as funeral luncheons, coffee and rolls after Mass, and meetings. This space is usually practically designed, but not always conducive to other events that could be held there. DMP envisions the St. John Paul II parish hall as an event center space, suitable for hosting dinners, meetings, wedding receptions, and conferences. The space would be large enough to accommodate up to 400 people, or it could be divided into smaller rooms.

The parish hall will continue to serve regular parish needs, while also allowing DMP to host events without relying on outside venues. This space would give us the ability to have a Catholic conference, a pastorate retreat, or a banquet and still be connected to a church. DMP could host a modern wedding reception, providing a couple with all the spaces needed at one location.

DIVINE MERCY MINISTRY CENTER

The Ministry Center will include essential office space to support the staff who carry out the ministry of the pastorate. DMP envisions the Divine Mercy Ministry Center on the St. John Paul II campus as a hub for discipleship and outreach, including formation classrooms, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atria, youth and family discipleship spaces, counseling and meeting rooms, and flexible offices under one roof. Technology-ready rooms, reliable infrastructure, and ample storage would support everything from staff trainings and ministry team meetings to large formation nights, all steps away from the church for prayer, confession, and Mass.

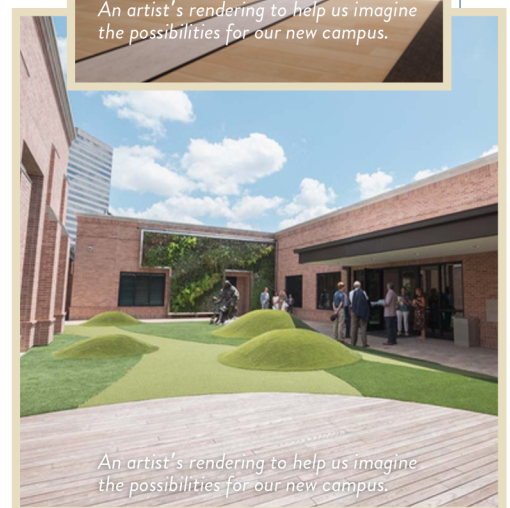
*HOLY
SPIRIT,
fount of all grace, guide us
in our mission to radiate
Your Mercy within our
pastorate and beyond.*



**This image is to help us imagine the possibilities for our new campus.*



An artist's rendering to help us imagine the possibilities for our new campus.



An artist's rendering to help us imagine the possibilities for our new campus.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

CONSTRUCTION STAGES:

STAGE 1: *Church Building*

The church will be designed to serve DMP and the broader Catholic community. It will include:

- Large narthex “gathering space.”
- Perpetual adoration chapel.
- Outdoor space for children, gathering, and reflection.
- State of the art sound and technology to improve the worship experience.
- Parking and accessibility.

STAGE 2: *Faith Formation Center*

Temporary auditorium and offices while the church is being built.

- Multiple atria for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

STAGE 3: *Event Center / Parish Hall*

DMP envisions the St. John Paul II parish event space as an event center space, suitable for hosting dinners, meetings, wedding receptions, and conferences.

STAGE 4: *PS-6 school*

If growth and St. John Paul II Parish deem it necessary, the Faith Formation Center could be transitioned into a PS-6 School.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL:

\$25 MILLION

TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST TWO STAGES SIMULTANEOUSLY

STAGE 1: *Church Building*

STAGE 2: *Faith Formation Center*

PRELIMINARY TIMELINE:

FALL 2025: Feasibility Study

WINTER 2025-2026: DMP Leadership to reflect on feasibility study findings with the Diocese

SPRING 2026: DMP Announces Decision and Plan to Move Forward

*Bless our pastorate, O Lord, with unity, peace, and joy, as we strive to live out the message of Divine Mercy in our words and actions.
Through Christ our Lord.*

AMEN.